

REMARKS

Claims 8-11 and 19-24 were identified as unrelated to the remaining claims in the Restriction Requirement dated October 6, 2005 and were not elected in our response dated November 7, 2005. As such, claims 8-11 and 19-24 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to possibly pursue in a divisional case.

In the Office Action dated November 23, 2005, claim 18 was misidentified as having been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 18 was included within claim Group I identified in the Restriction Requirement of October 6, 2005, and elected in our response of November 7, 2005. Claim 18 remains pending in this application and is currently amended by the present amendment. Examination of claim 18 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohmi et al., US Patent No. 5,983,933 (“Ohmi”). Claim 1 has been amended to recite at least one projection extending from a substantially planar surface of the housing, where the at least one projection is spaced apart from the passageway. Since Ohmi does not disclose a projection spaced apart from a passageway and extending from a substantially planar surface, claim 1 is patentable over the Ohmi.

Since claims 2 - 7 are all dependant claims based on claim 1, claims 2 - 7 are patentable over Ohmi.

Claims 12-17 were identified as allowable in the Office Action of November 23, 2005.

Claims 25-38 have been added and are believed to be in condition for allowance. These claims are consistent with the election made in Applicants’ November 7, 2005 response to the Restriction Requirement.

Claim 25 recites features not disclosed in the cited reference (Ohmi). For example, claim 25 recites, in part, a bridge fitting having a locating feature disposed on a housing, where the locating feature is spaced apart from a passageway, and a block having an aligned complementary shaped locating feature for engaging the bridge fitting locating feature. Claims 26-33 are all dependant claims based on claim 25, and are also patentable over Ohmi.

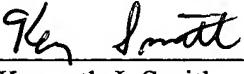
Claim 34 recites features not disclosed in Ohmi. For example, claim 34 recites, in part, a bridge fitting having a housing with a locating feature disposed on a substantially planar surface of the housing, with the locating feature being spaced apart from an internal passageway of the housing. Claim 35 is a dependant claim based on claim 34, and is also patentable over Ohmi.

Claim 36 recites features not disclosed in Ohmi. For example, claim 36 recites, in part, a bridge fitting having a housing with first and second non-coaxial ports disposed on opposite sides of the housing. Claims 37 and 38 are dependant claims based on claim 36, and are also patentable over Ohmi.

The present application is in proper condition for allowance and favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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